

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 7, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 8 is a diagram showing how a network of DAMP enabled routers and switches would pass a DAMP data packet through several branches of the network. Exemplary values for the relevant fields embedded in each successive copy of the DAMP data packet are shown as it travels across each network segment. This figure shows how in one embodiment of the invention, a network element 220, such as a router or IP switch (815, 825, 835, 837), upon receiving a copy of the DAMP data packet 510 (811, 821, 831, 832) from the DAMP sending client 210 or from another network element (815, 825, 835, 837), then processes a copy of the received DAMP data packet (811, 821, 831, 832) by zeroing those IP addresses embedded in the IP Options field 520 that are not directly accessible below the network element (815, 825, 835, 837); setting the destination IP address 524 in the IP header section ~~525~~ 515 of the copy of the DAMP data packet (821, 822, 831, 832, 841, 842, 843) to the IP address of one of the non-zeroed remote destination network devices (851, 852, 853, 854) embedded in the IP Options field 520; and routing the modified copy of the DAMP data packet (821, 822, 831, 832, 841, 842, 843) to each additional network element (825, 835, 837) or network device (851, 852, 853, 854) for which there is corresponding non-zeroed IP address listed in the embedded list of multiple remote destination IP addresses.